

"So it may appear that we gave up everything! But there's one thing we still have. Sam... our dignity!"

COMMENTARY

CANAL -- "It might be a good idea to amend any proposed treaty to provide for a review of the deal at the end of the phaseout period. At least that would provide an opportunity to determine whether the U.S. had truly received anything in return for the hundreds of millions of dollars it will cost to abandon our rights to the important waterway." (Milwaukee Sentinel)

"There is nothing illegal or morally wrong with the American presence in Panama. It is there under a treaty in which Panama gave the United States the

exclusive right 'in perpetuity' to build and operate a canal...Is it wrong for the United States to be guided now and then by self-interest in establishing policies toward other nations? Absolutely not. And in the case of an issue of such vital importance as the canal treaty, the United States' economic and military interests should be of paramount concern." (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

"The American people are well aware that it is perfectly ridiculous to hand over this canal to a nation which is a dictatorship under the control of a Marxist, Communist-loving tyrant." (William Loeb in the Manchester Union Leader)

"(The U.S.) having negotiated and signed the treaty, and having reached a point in time at which it would be most unwise to repudiate it, the Senate would be wise to ratify the treaty with the best grace possible." (Journal of Commerce)

"Right wing, throwback jingoist sentiment has rallied on this, and because the real issues are complex, the simpler emotions are easily exploited. But the truth is that the United States has to get out of the zone." (Dayton Daily News)

"The question for the Senate is what it expects of the canal in the future. Does it, like some of its die-hard colonialists, simply want to hold onto the Canal Zone as a relic of an expansionist past? Or is the nation's basic interest to keep the canal open, secure and neutral, and to strengthen hemispheric ties? For that is where the national interest lies today, and that interest calls for ratification." (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

"It would be nothing less than a tragedy were this treaty to fail of ratification in the Senate." (St. Paul Pioneer Press)

"Canal negotiations have taken 13 years. The issue is too serious to serve

COMMENTARY

CANAL -- "The signing of the treaties may eventually lead to a greater understanding and good will between the United States and our Latin American neighbors. But those same ceremonies will signal the beginning of a knock-down drag-out fight unless the President can convince millions that the treaties are indeed in our best interest." (Atlanta Constitution)

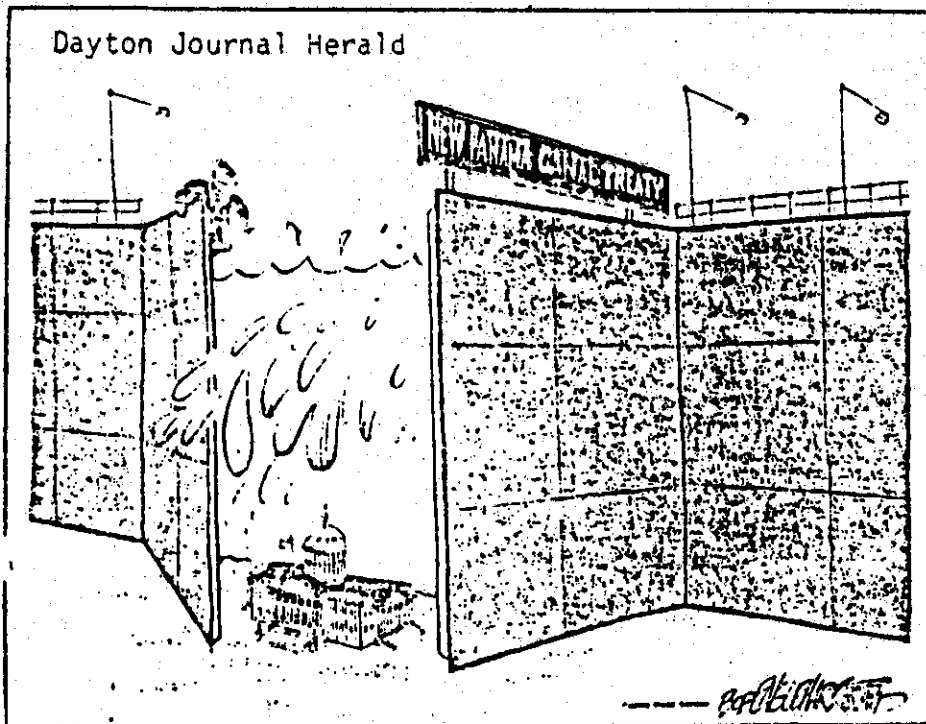
"Politically and morally, we are obliged to revise the 1903 treaty. The negotiations have been long and thorough. On the evidence so far available -- since the actual text has not yet been released -- the new treaty offers the most favorable terms we could expect to get." (Louisville Courier-Journal & Times)

"The facts behind the (canal) issue need to be carefully considered before the final vote is taken. Emotionalism would be the worst criterion upon which to base a decision of this magnitude." (Shreveport, La., Journal)

"Until the unequal treaty signed (in 1903) by John Hay and Philippe Bunau-Varilla is finally discarded in favor of an accord acceptable to all the nations of the Western Hemisphere, the canal will be a divisive rather than a unifying factor in the relations of American states." (Baltimore Sun)

"If Carter has his way on this giveaway to a Marxist dictator government, then he will move to give away South Korea, Rhodesia, Taiwan, Southwest Africa, and South Africa to our Communist enemies." (Bastrop, La., Daily Enterprise)

"We hope that in the wooing of Mr. Meany and the AFL-CIO by the Carter administration...there is going to be no big IOU created by Panama Treaty support." (Philadelphia Bulletin)



"...It would be embarrassing for the Senate to be steamrollered into a hasty ratification, as if it would solve all of our troubles, only to have the treaty later rejected by the Panamanians. We suggest that the Senate delay its action until the Panamanians have demonstrated that they want the treaty -- and will be content with it." (Chicago Tribune)

"If 'morality' really is the underlying reason for